

REMARKS

Support for the amendment to Claim 5 can be found in the specification at least at page 19, lines 17-20 and at page 12, lines 10-18.

Support for newly added Claims 13 and 14 can be found at least in original Claim 5.

First, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 7 as indicated on page 4, numbered paragraph 7 of the Official Action.

Claim 5 has been objected to for reciting “The antireflection . . .” in the preamble (page 2, numbered paragraph 1 of the Official Action). As suggested by the Examiner, Claim 5 has been amended to recite “*An* antireflection . . .” in the preamble. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 9 have also been objected to as allegedly being in improper multiple-dependent form. According to the Examiner, Claim 6 is allegedly improper since it makes reference to features from two different claims (*i.e.*, Claims 3 and 5). Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the description of the relevant features from Claims 3 and 5. Claim 9 has apparently been objected to as being dependent on Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Claim 6 obviates the objection to Claims 6 and 9. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been objected to as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of Claim 7. Claim 10 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

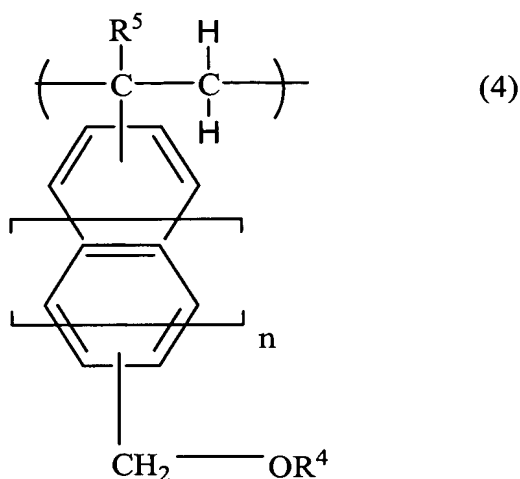
Claims 5 and 8 have been rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 6-16111 to Murata et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Murata”). See page 3, numbered paragraph 5 of the Official Action. Claims 5 and 8 have also been rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,656,121 to Eichorn et al. (hereinafter referred to as

“Eichorn”). See page 4, numbered paragraph 6 of the Official Action. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to the Official Action, Murata discloses radiation sensitive resin compositions comprising units derived from styrene substituted with $-\text{CH}_2\text{OCOOR}$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOR}$. According to the Official Action, Eichorn discloses a binder “based on poly(4-hydroxymethylstyrene)”.

As amended, Claim 5 recites a polymer having a structural unit of the following formula

(4)



wherein the substituent R^4 is a monovalent organic group *selected from the group consisting of a phenyl group, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an acyl group, and a group in which one or more hydrogen atoms of a phenyl group, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, or an acyl group are replaced by one or more of the same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group, a nitro group and a sulfonic acid group.* The compounds disclosed by Murata and Eichorn and relied upon in the Official Action include structural units which meet the definition of formula (4) only when the substituent R^4 in formula (4) is hydrogen (Eichorn) or an organic group which includes the moiety $-\text{COOR}$ (Murata). As

set forth above, however, the substituent R⁴ in amended Claim 5 is defined such that R⁴ is not hydrogen or an organic group which includes the moiety -COOR. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been added. Claim 11 is directed to the subject matter of original Claim 5 wherein the variable n is 1. The structural units disclosed in Murata and Eichorn and relied upon in the Official Action are styrene based and therefore meet the definition of formula (4) of Claim 5 only when the variable n in formula (4) is 0. Claim 12 depends from Claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Murata and Eichorn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, Christopher W. Raimund at (202) 861-3896.

Respectfully submitted,

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